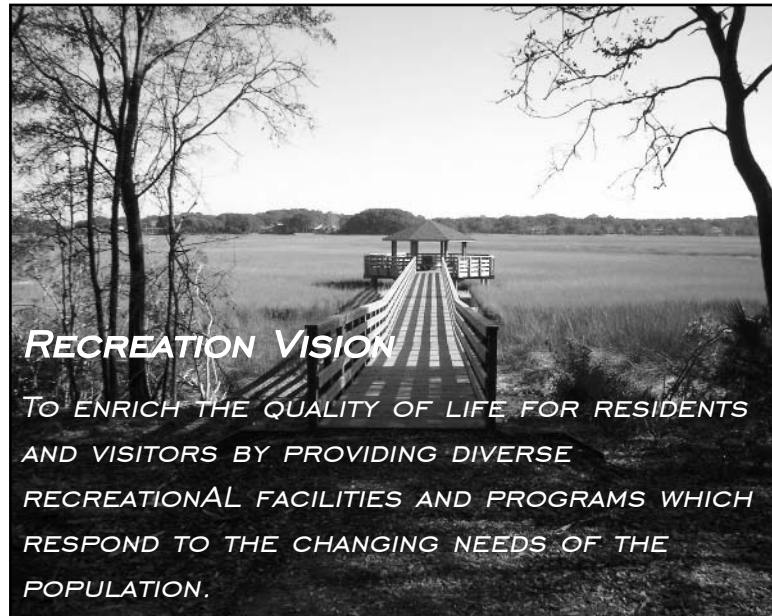


A. INTRODUCTION

As discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, the Island has a rich cultural history and an abundance of natural resources, including numerous archaeological sites that range from prehistoric shell rings to Civil War sites. The natural resources of the island provide a highly scenic and diverse landscape that offers outstanding views to water, marshes, maritime forests, and wetlands.

Hilton Head Island has become well-known throughout the country as a world class resort destination recognized for its high quality recreational amenities and natural resources. Private resort and residential communities located on the island provide an exceptional number of leisure facilities highlighting tennis, golf, swimming, and bicycling. The Town government excels in providing specialized recreational facilities such as beach parks, leisure pathways, and ball fields where both residents and visitors may participate in recreation activities. The Town strives to work with public and private recreation organizations to promote leisure time programs and activities that will accommodate all ages, skill levels and interests of residents and visitors.

Over the past 15 years the Town of Hilton Head Island has taken steps to assess the future park and recreation needs of Island residents. The Parks and Recreation Commission was created in 1992 to establish long and short term goals for development and management of parks and recreational facilities. In October of 1995 the first Recreation and Open Space Plan was written outlining recreation needs for the next twenty years. This plan was adopted by Town Council on January 3, 1996 as an appendix to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The plan was then amended in 1998 and 2000 to address additional future park locations.



In the 2004 Comprehensive Plan the Community Facilities Element contained a section on parks and recreational facilities. This Recreation Element provides for a more in-depth analysis and replaces the earlier Recreation and Open Space Plan. It includes revised park definitions; an existing facilities inventory; new park guidelines which will replace former park standards; and new needs, goals and implementation strategies for the next 20 years.

In the 1995 Recreation and Open Space Plan four classifications of parks were used to define the existing and proposed park lands within the Town of Hilton Head Island. As new parks were built and the population of the Town has grown these park classifications became outdated. A revised set of park definitions are needed to better classify the existing and proposed parks within the community. Listed below are park definitions which pertain to existing and future parks.

These definitions should be used as guidelines. Due to the unique characteristics of Hilton Head Island these definitions must be flexible. Existing and future parks may not fall neatly into one specific park category. For example, the Town beach parks which are listed as special use parks, may also be considered regional parks.

Park service areas are referred to in the park definitions below. A park service area is the area from which to expect park users to originate. Accessory uses, although not stated in every definition, may be implied at both parks and facilities. Accessory uses at a gymnasium, for example, may be fitness/aerobics classes, karate classes, basketball courts, and volleyball courts.

PARK DEFINITIONS

Activity Categories

Passive Park:

A park and/or recreation area that is used for passive activities which may include walking, cultural and educational activities, contemplative activity, picnicking, non-organized sports activities, playground areas and beach access to name a few examples. Some small scale active activities may be included in a passive park.

Active Park:

A park and/or recreation area that is used for active activities which may include organized sporting events and may be comprised of multi-purpose fields, multi-purpose sports courts, playground areas, multi-purpose trails, and boat landings. Passive activities may also be included in an active park.

Park Categories

Mini-Park:

The mini-park is the smallest park classification and used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Mini-parks, also known as pocket parks, address unique recreational needs such as landscaped public use areas in a commercial or residential area, or scenic overlook areas. The mini-park may include such passive uses as picnic areas, arbors, sitting areas and public art. Accessibility to mini-parks may be via inter-connecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume streets. Portions of the park site should be readily visible from adjoining streets to provide a secure environment. A mini-park may be between 2500 square feet and one acre in size. However, park areas less than 5 acres may also be considered a mini-park. Ease of access from the surrounding area and linkage to the community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a mini-park site.



Neighborhood Park:

The neighborhood park should serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. It may be developed for both active and passive recreational activities, and accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is important to successful design. A neighborhood park should be centrally located within its service area, which may be ¼ mile to ½ mile radius. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. Generally 1 acre is the accepted minimum size necessary to provide space for a variety of recreation activities, while 1 to 5 acres may be considered optimal. Active recreational facilities should be used in an informal and unstructured manner. Neighborhood parks are not intended for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems or congestion. Examples of active facilities are play structures, court games, informal play field, and tennis courts. Examples of passive uses are internal trails connecting to a pathway system, picnic/sitting areas, and contemplative or "people watching" areas. Generally active recreational facilities should consume approximately 50 percent of the park's acreage and the remaining 50 percent should be used for passive activities.

Community Park:

The community park is larger in size and serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus should be on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and may offer other recreational opportunities not available at neighborhood parks. Community parks should be developed for both passive and active recreational activities. The optimal size for a community park is between 20 and 50 acres, but its actual size should be based on the land

area needed to accommodate desired uses. Reserved and programmed uses are compatible and acceptable for a community park. Examples of active facilities at a community park may include large play structures, game courts, ball fields, and swimming pools. Examples of passive facilities may include extensive internal trails, individual and group picnic areas, nature study areas, contemplative and sitting areas. Parking lots should be provided to accommodate user access.

Special Use Park:

The special use park should offer the opportunity to highlight unique local historical, educational, cultural, and natural resources. Examples may include performing arts parks, special events parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, amphitheaters, boat landing or other water-oriented facilities, and beach parks. Features within a special use park may include both hardscape and softscape development for commemorative purposes. Park use may be passive with some sites functioning as venues for festivals, concerts and other special events. Special use facilities should be viewed as strategically-located community-wide facilities rather than as serving a specific neighborhood or area. The special use park is generally accessed by pedestrians via walkways, sidewalks, or trails around and throughout the site as well as by automobiles. Parking should be provided as appropriate for the specific park - some parks require a significant amount of parking (e.g., beach park) while others do not. Opportunities for sharing parking with nearby facilities should be explored for parks with occasional heavy use (e.g., performing arts park). Park use and space requirements are the primary factors in determining the size of the park site.

Regional Park:

Regional parks supplement neighborhood and community parks and may serve broader-based recreational needs. The greater size



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permits large-scale development of both passive and active facilities providing a wide range of recreational activities. Regional parks may include sizeable areas of undeveloped land with natural vegetation and/or water features. The optimal size for a regional park may be between 50 and 85 acres. Regional parks may have a service area within reasonable and equal driving distance from the populations served. Some residential development should be within walking distance of the park, but any high use activity areas within the park should not be situated adjacent to residential areas. Regional parks may have frontage on major and minor arterial streets and may have designated bicycle and pedestrian pathway access. Where possible, major streets should be routed around regional parks rather than through them. One or more parking lots should be provided to accommodate user access. Examples of active facilities at a regional park may include a large playground, sports complexes (possibly lighted) with single or multi-purpose fields and concession buildings, basketball courts, multi-use courts, tennis courts, and swimming pools. Examples of passive facilities may include open spaces and nature reserves, extensive internal trails, 1 or more picnic areas, 1 or more picnic pavilions of varying sizes, fishing access sites, and landscaped contemplative areas.

Private Park/Recreational Facility:

This classification recognizes contributions of private providers to the community park and recreation system. Private parks such as swimming pools, tennis courts, and party houses or meeting rooms are generally within residential areas developed solely for the use of residents and are maintained by a neighborhood association. These facilities should not be looked upon as a complete substitute for public recreation space. Other private recreational facilities are for-profit businesses such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses,

and water parks. The location of private parks/recreational facilities are typically determined by a developer and service areas for these parks will depend on the type of use. The size of the park is also dependent on the intended use of the park.

Linear Park:

Linear parks are greenways of open space that may offer scenic beauty and may allow safe, uninterrupted pedestrian or bicycle movement along natural or man-made corridors. Generally they are located along waterways. Linear parks combined with the planned pathway system may link various other parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, libraries and businesses. Pedestrian and bicycle trails can accommodate both recreational and purposeful trips. Linear parks should conserve ecologically unique areas along marshes and creeks and provide long stretches of open space well suited for pathways. Existing tree cover within natural corridors should be protected. The maximum length of a linear park may be variable. The minimum width should be 50 feet. Support facilities throughout the linear park should include benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, signage, and connectors to adjacent parks and pathways.

Major Facility Categories

These are the major facility categories that need some description. Other facility categories are self-explanatory.

Multi-Use Pathway or Trail:

Multi-use pathways or trails may be designed to provide walking, skating, bicycling, and other non-motorized recreational opportunities. These pathways should provide linkages to other areas and facilities and offer non-vehicular options for travel through the community. Paved pathways should generally be developed to a high level to accommodate



greater numbers of users of all abilities. Non-paved pathways should generally be developed to match the intent of the park or recreational area in which it is located.

Swimming Pool:

Swimming pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough space to accommodate diving boards. For teaching purposes the size of the swimming pool should be 25 yards by 45 feet and have an even depth of 3 to 4 feet in nondiving areas. For competitive purposes the size of the swimming pool should be 75 feet by 48 feet with a minimum of 25 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Generally swimming pools should be located in community or regional parks, within a 15 to 30 minute travel time for facility users.

Basketball Courts:

Outdoor basketball courts for general community use should have unobstructed space on all sides. Generally outdoor basketball courts should be located in neighborhood or community parks and regional parks. The service radius for an outdoor basketball court is between $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and should have safe walking or biking access for facility users.

Tennis Courts:

Outdoor tennis courts for general community use should be 36 feet by 78 feet and have a minimum of 12 feet clearance on both ends of the court and should be planned in groups of 2 to 4 courts in one location. Generally outdoor tennis courts should be located in neighborhood or community parks and regional parks. An outdoor tennis court should have safe walking and biking access for facility users.

Baseball/Softball Field:

Baseball/Softball fields for general community use should be located in community or regional parks. Baseball/softball fields should be within a 15 to 30 minute travel time for facility users.

Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field:

Multi-purpose rectangular sports fields for general community use should be located in community or regional parks. Examples of activities played on multi-purpose rectangular fields include football, soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. Multi-purpose rectangular fields will vary in size based on the intended use of the field - youth activities, adult activities, practice activities, programmed activities and tournament activities.

B. INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The inventory and analysis section includes existing and future park site listings, park and facility guidelines and an inventory of existing recreational facilities. Levels of service for park and facility maintenance and various recreation programs will also be addressed in this section.

1. Park Sites

Table 1 shows the existing parks listed by park category based on the general park definitions in the Introduction. Some of these parks contain characteristics of multiple categories. They were placed in the category that most describes their characteristics.



Table 1: Existing Parks

Park Category	Existing Parks	Acreage
Mini Park	None at this time	0
Neighborhood Park	Old Schoolhouse Greens Shell	3 3
Community Park	Barker Field * Island Recreation Center * Jarvis Creek * Crossings Park * Chaplin Community Park *	20 6 56 74 67
Special Use Park	Shelter Cove Park Fish Haul Park Folly Field Beach Park Islander's Beach Park * Alder Lane Beach Park Malphrus Beach Park Coligny Beach Park Cordillo Courts * Driessen Beach Park * Xeriscape Interpretive Garden Marshland Road Boat Landing Old House Fishing Pier Cross Island Boat Landing Honey Horn Northridge	8 31 1 13 1 7 8 2 15 3 5 1 3 69 70
Regional Park	Beaufort County Schools Campus	12
Private Parks / Recreational Facilities	Leamington Recreation Center (Neighborhood Park) Palmetto Hall Recreation Area (Neighborhood Park) Hilton Head Plantation Spring Lake Area (Neighborhood Park) Hilton Head Plantation Dolphin Head Area (Neighborhood Park) Port Royal Plantation Children's Play Field (Neighborhood Park) Wexford Croquet Court (Neighborhood Park) Sea Pines Harbour Town Liberty Oak (Neighborhood Park) Sea Pines South Beach (Neighborhood Park) Sea Pines Six Oaks Park (Neighborhood Park) Hilton Head Plantation Whooping Crane Conservancy (Special Use Park) Hilton Head Plantation Cypress Conservancy (Special Use Park) Shipyard Beach Club (Special Use Park) Port Royal Plantation Beach Club (Special Use Park) Long Cove Community Dock (Special Use Park) Sea Pines Newhall Preserve (Special Use Park) Sea Pines Forest Preserve (Special Use Park) Sea Pines Deer Island Park Preserve (Special Use Park) Sea Pines Baynard Ruins Park (Special Use Park) Port Royal Plantation Croquet Court	varies
Linear Park	None at this time	0



Note 1: The parks in Table 1 with an asterisk (*) beside it can also be considered a Neighborhood Park.

Note 2: The school campus is considered regional in nature due to the stadium.

Note 3: The Northridge property is considered a Special Use Park, however, there are restrictive covenants on the property that prevent certain uses.

2. Park Development Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is moving away from recommending national standards and encouraging communities to create their own unique standards or guidelines for public and private parks and recreational facilities. Since Hilton Head Island has a diverse wealth of recreation opportunities and a unique population that is divided among permanent residents and visitors to the island, using generic park standards or guidelines is not appropriate.

Table 2 shows new park development guidelines. The guidelines include park type, general park size, population served, existing parks in 2005, additional parks needed by 2020, and total number of parks needed in 2020. The calculations for the additional parks needed by 2020 are based on the population projection of 53,300 permanent residents in the year 2020. This population figure was projected by the Town of Hilton Head Island in August 2004 for the Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan. In the Neighborhood Park and Community Park categories, the numbers for additional parks have been adjusted to better reflect the Island's unique characteristics.

The park numbers shown in Table 2 reflect the recommended number of existing and future public parks and do not include parks located in private gated communities. It is unknown at this time if the PUDs plan to expand or construct new parks or facilities for their residents.

The number of Community Parks needed in the year 2020 has also been adjusted. Several of the PUDs and private schools provide recreational facilities that could be accommodated in Community Parks such as rectangular multi-purpose fields and other single purpose fields. The number of additional Community Parks needed by 2020 has been adjusted to reflect this. For every 2 rectangular multi-purpose fields and 2 single-purpose fields in PUDs or at private schools, one Community Park was deducted from the guidelines for the number of parks calculated using the population projection of 53,300 permanent residents.

Areas of improvement can be seen in reviewing the information in Table 2 for the Neighborhood Park, Community Park and Regional Park categories. By the year 2020, it is recommended that a total of 3 additional Community Parks, 1 additional Regional Park, and 14 additional Neighborhood Parks should be constructed on the Island. The Town will work with residents of individual neighborhoods to determine if there is an interest for a neighborhood park.



Table 2: New Park Development Guidelines

Park Type	General Park Size	Population Served	Existing Parks in 2005 (See Table 1)	Additional Parks Needed by 2020	Total Number of Parks Needed in 2020
Neighborhood Park	1-5 acres	500-1,000	2	14	16
Community Park	20-80 acres	2,000-5,000	5	3	8
Regional Park	50-85 acres	5,000-20,000	1	1	2
Special Use Park	1-50 acres	100-5,000	15	0	15
Mini Park	2,500 sq.ft - acre	Varies	0	Varies	Varies
Linear Park	Varies	Varies	0	Varies	Varies

NOTE 1: The number of additional parks needed and total number of parks needed by 2020 in the Neighborhood Park category are based on the population projection of 16,421 permanent residents outside of PUD's. This number was used because the Town does not plan to construct Neighborhood Parks inside PUD's.

NOTE 2: When the word "varies" is listed in any of the Table 2 categories, this indicates the information is not based on population, but is based on the desire of the Town, the location of the property and any opportunities available on the property.

Table 3 indicates Future Park Needs and includes those Town-owned lands that have been designated for future park construction in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). It also gives the remaining number of additional parks needed in 2020 after these designated parks have been built. There are 7 designated future Neighborhood Parks that will be

needed by 2020. It should be noted that the need for Neighborhood Parks will fluctuate depending on the requests of each individual neighborhood. The table also indicates 5 designated future Community Parks fulfilling any future Community Park needs by 2020. Jenkins Island has been designated as a park of regional size which will meet the future regional need. Future Mini-Parks, Linear Parks and Special Purpose Parks can be met as opportunities become available.

The parks indicated in Column 5 of Table 3 can be met in 3 ways: 1) examining and identifying the vacant Town-owned properties that can meet the need; 2) purchasing additional property; or 3) working with other organizations such as churches and other schools to share facilities. Once the 'designated future parks' and those 'remaining to be identified' have been constructed, the Town will have fulfilled the guidelines given in Table 2 above.



The Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan recommended the Town of Hilton Head Island adopt the following levels of service for a regional park network:

- ▶ 12.2 acres of land per 1,000 residents; and
- ▶ \$722 of park and recreational facilities per capita

It should be noted this level of service was adapted from a list of existing parks considered regional in nature. With the inclusion of all other existing and future parks the Town of Hilton Head Island is exceeding this level of service.

Table 3: Future Park Needs

Park Category (General Size)	Total # of Additional Parks Needed by 2020 (See Table 2)	Future Parks As Designated in the CIP	Acres	# of Parks Remaining to be Identified
Neighborhood Park (1-5 acres)	(See Note 1)	Driessen Beach Park Expansion Taylor Memorial Park Marshland/Spanish Wells Road Marshland Road Central Church North Forest Beach South Forest Beach (See Note 2) Aranda	8 5 2 2 2 2 -- 7	(See Note 1)
Community Park (20-80 acres)	3	Coligny Park Expansion Driessen Park along US 278 Shelter Cove Memorial Park Yacht Cove Crossings Park Expansion Indigo Run Site	7 7 17 14 11 19	0
Regional Park (50-85 acres)	1	Jenkins Island	85	0
Special Use Park (1-50 acres)	Varies (See Note 3)	Collier Beach Park Port Royal Beach Access Fords Shell Ring Northridge	5 18 8 66	n/a
Mini Park (2500 s.f.-1 acre)	Varies	New Orleans Rd Corner Park Town Hall Park Arrow Rd Corner Park Potential for others in redevelopment areas	2 2 2 --	n/a
Linear Park (varies)	Varies	Chaplin Linear Park	varies	n/a

Note 1: Town will coordinate with neighborhoods to determine their need for a neighborhood park.

Note 2: South Forest Beach Park is in the CIP but the Town does not have a specific location.

Note 3: Beach Parks are described further in the Town's Beach Access Plan.

Note 4: Table 3 above is used as a minimum guideline of future parks. The information in this table is reflected and updated annually in the Capital Improvements Program.

3. Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

In order to complete an inventory of existing recreational facilities in the Town, a survey was sent out to 4 recreation organizations, 10 PUDs, the County, and the Town of Hilton Head Island in July 2004 and all were returned. A total of 65 recreational facilities were reported. Table 4 lists the results of the survey.

Table 4 shows the wealth and variety of recreational facilities in the Town. This table reflects recreational facilities that are located both outside and inside PUDs, giving a more accurate representation of available recreational facilities within the Town. Commercial businesses such as mini-golf, health clubs/fitness centers and tennis clubs were not included in the survey information. Private schools and church facilities were also not included.

Swimming pools and tennis courts located at multi-family developments were also not included in the inventory survey. These facilities are available to the owners of the multi-family units and their guests, and not to the general public. In the instance of a PUD, swimming pools and tennis courts available to all residents of the PUD were included in the survey and those available to only one group of property owners in the PUD were not counted due to their limited access.



The Table 4 inventory shows the Town has 51 miles of paved multi-use pathways/trails. These pathways link various Town parks, commercial and residential areas of the island. These pathways service pedestrians by providing access along roadways throughout the island. The pathways are used by both residents and visitors for transportation and recreation activities such as bicycling, walking, and jogging. In private gated communities there are an additional 52 ½ miles of paved pathways/trails. For more information on the Town's multi-use pathway network please refer to the Transportation Element.

The facilities inventory in Table 4 differs from the inventory conducted in the 1995 Recreation and Open Space Plan. The 1995 facilities inventory included 19 recreational facilities and divided the island into 2 sub-districts. With the opening of the Cross Island Parkway which provides a second connector between the north and south ends of the island, the sub-districts are no longer needed.

Several of the facilities listed on the 1995 inventory were changed or merged in the 2004 survey. Community center and club house listed in the 1995 inventory are listed as community house/meeting room in the 2004 inventory. A community house/meeting room that is included in the 2004 inventory is open and readily available to the public or in the case of a PUD open and available to the residents of that development. Baseball/softball field listed in the 1995 inventory is listed as single purpose field in the 2004 inventory. Football and soccer fields listed individually in the 1995 inventory are listed as rectangular multi-purpose fields in the 2004 inventory. Picnic tables listed in the 1995 inventory is listed as picnic areas in the 2004 inventory. Multi-use trail listed in the 1995 inventory is divided into 2 categories, paved trails and unpaved trails in the 2004 inventory. These

changes were made and additional facilities were added to the inventory to better reflect the existing recreational facilities in the Town.

While not limited to non-motorized boat traffic, the County boat landing at Marshland Road is used heavily by people to launch kayaks. Other launching sites exist at private and commercial marinas and docks along the waterfront throughout the Island and were not included in the survey information.



Table 4: Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

	Town of HHI	Bft County Parks & Leisure Svcs	HH Schools Campus	Island Recreation Center	Boys & Girls Club	Hilton Head Plantation	Indigo Run	Long Cove Club	Palmetto Dunes	Palmetto Hall	Port Royal Plantation	Sea Pines	Shipyard Plantation	Spanish Wells Plantation	Wexford Plantation	TOTAL
Paved Trails (miles)	51		0.5			10	1.5		4		7	15	10		5	104
Unpaved Trails (miles)	2.5										2	2				6.5
Beach (miles)																13
Rectangular Multi-Purpose Fields	11	5	4	1		1	1					1				24
Single Purpose Fields	3	7	6			1		1		1	1					20
Running Track			1													1
Indoor Basketball Court			5	1	1											7
Outdoor Basketball Court	5	1		3	2	1.5		2			1				1	16.5
Outdoor Tennis Court	8	2	10			33	6	10	25	4	20	59	20	2	6	205
Volleyball Court			1	2		2										5
Public Golf Course (# of holes)						36	18		54	36	36	54	27			261
Private Golf Course (# of holes)						36	18	18			18	18		9	18	135
Outdoor Swimming Pool				1		1*	3*	1*		1	1*	4*		1	1*	14*
Indoor Swimming Pool												1				1
Playground	6	2	3	1	2	2	4	1	2	1	1	2	1		1	28
Dog Park	1															1
Beach Park	8					1			2		2	2	1			16
Creek Park								1								1
Boat Landing		3							1			1				5
Nature Preserve (Acres)	70**					177					6.5	605				858.5
Gymnasium			4	1	1											6
Community House/Meeting Room (Square Footage)	2660			280	280	9632	3575	14000			3500	5400	4000	1500	5500	50327
Picnic Areas	22	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1			1	39
Horse Stables												1				1
Lawn Bowling Court															1	1
Croquet Court											1				1	2
Roller Hockey Facility	1															1
Skateboard Facility	1															1
Outdoor Band/Theater/Pavilion/Stage									1			2				3
Civic Art Areas									1			2				3
Teen Club					1											1
Rowing/Sailing Center									1							1

*Of the 14 outdoor swimming pools in this table, 9 have outdoor “kiddie” pools in addition to adult pools.

**This 70 acre nature preserve is the Town-owned Northridge property.



4. Facility Guidelines

As mentioned earlier, the National Recreation and Park Association is moving away from recommending national standards. The NRPA is advocating communities create unique guidelines for recreational facilities that will accommodate each community's individual needs. Guidelines for several regularly-used recreational facilities in Hilton Head Island have been developed by Town staff using information from a variety of sources such as public input, other communities' guidelines or standards, and the National Recreation and Park Association.

These guidelines are not "set in stone" and can fluctuate depending on the community's recreation needs, population and the availability of land to build new facilities or renovate existing facilities. The total number of facilities used in these guidelines includes facilities located inside and outside private gated communities. By including these, the total number of recreational facilities is more accurately related to the total population of the island. Some of the more popular facilities are described below.

Multi-purpose rectangular fields are typically used for sports such as football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and rugby. Currently there are 24 multi-purpose rectangular fields in the Town with 3 of those in gated communities. Since these fields accommodate a variety of sports the number of users that each field can serve is a cumulative total of 5,000 people.

There are currently 20 single purpose fields in the Town with 4 of those in gated communities. An example of a single purpose field is a baseball/softball field. Since these fields accommodate one type of sport the number of users that each field can serve is a cumulative total of 3,000 people.

There is a total of 23.5 basketball courts in the Town with 5.5 of those in gated communities. This number is a combination of 7 indoor and 16.5 outdoor basketball courts. One basketball court (indoor or outdoor) can serve approximately 5,000 people.

Tennis is a popular recreational activity in the Town. There is a total of 205 tennis courts on the island with 185 of those in gated communities. This figure does not include commercial tennis facilities. One tennis court can serve approximately 4,000 people.

There are many swimming pools in the Town. There are 14 outdoor swimming pools in gated communities and 1 year-round indoor pool outside the gates. It is important to note that the outdoor swimming pool located at the Island Recreation Center converts to an indoor pool during the winter months by having a dome placed over the pool facility. This pool is counted in the outdoor category. Of the 14 locations reporting outdoor pools, 9 also have outdoor "kiddie" pools. One pool can serve approximately 20,000 people.

The need for additional swimming pools has been a topic of discussion recently with residents and recreation organizations on the island. The only swimming pool for community-wide use is located at the Island Recreation Center. Although there appears to be a sufficient number of swimming pools based on population projections, island residents believe another community-wide swimming pool should be constructed. The preference for the location of this second swimming pool is on the south end of the island.

There are 28 playgrounds located in the Town with 14 of those in gated communities. One playground can serve approximately 2,000 people.



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The waterways surrounding Hilton Head Island and the 13 miles of beaches draw residents and tourists to the island to live, work, and visit the beautiful natural environment. There are 16 beach parks located on Hilton Head Island, 8 of these parks are owned and maintained by the Town. The number of people served by one beach park will fluctuate based on the park size, proximity to residential dwelling units, and the number of parking spaces available at the park. In addition to the private and Town-owned Beach Parks there are several beach access points in older subdivisions throughout the Island, such as the North Forest Beach neighborhood, where residents can access the beach.

In and around Hilton Head Island there are 5 boat landings/ramps; 3 are county boat ramps and 2 are privately owned. Based on the available parking and the size of the boat landing, 1 boat landing can accommodate between approximately 1,000 to 8,000 people, depending on parking.

Outdoor recreation activities abound on Hilton Head Island and picnicking is a popular activity for both residents and visitors alike. The Town has 39 picnic areas with 12 of these in gated communities. Each picnicking area can serve approximately 2,000 people.

At this time there is no recommendation for specific number of facilities that will be needed by the year 2020. This need will be based on demand for specific sports or recreation activities that are popular in the next 20 years. From public input over the last 5 years the Town was told by residents there is a need for additional multi-purpose fields as stated in Appendix A. It is believed that this need can be partially addressed with improved scheduling of events and lighting at the existing multi-purpose fields on the Island. An additional multi-purpose field might be considered to allow for 'down time' of the fields during seasonal maintenance. Other suggestions indi-

cated in Appendix A should be considered by the Town as they design each of the future parks listed in Table 5.

Table 5 indicates suggested types of facilities for future parks. These suggestions were received at several public meetings between 2000 and 2004 (See Appendix A). Some facilities were suggested by the public at specific locations, but the Town recommends each facility be considered at a 'Park Category' level before determining the facility's exact location. For example, a sailing/rowing center was requested at Jenkins Island. Due to difficult ingress/egress issues, heavy traffic at this location, and other issues a different location should be found for such a facility.

Table 5: Suggested Future Parks and Facility Locations

Park Category	# of Future Park Needs	Future Parks As Designated in the CIP	Suggested Facilities from the Public
Neighborhood Parks	(NOTE 1)	Driessen Beach Park Expansion Taylor Memorial Park Marshland/Spanish Wells Road Marshland Road Central Church North Forest Beach South Forest Beach Aranda	Playgrounds Picnic Areas Basketball Courts Tennis Courts
Community Park	3	Coligny Park Expansion Driessen Park along US 278 Shelter Cove Memorial Park Crossings Park Expansion Yacht Cove Indigo Run Hotel Site	Multi Purpose Fields (NOTE 2) Swimming Pool with kiddie pool Indoor & outdoor volleyball court Jogging Track with exercise stops Basketball Courts Tennis Courts South Island Recreation Center (w/senior center, gymnastics, etc.)
Regional Park	1	Jenkins Island	
Special Purpose Park		Collier Beach Park Port Royal Beach Access Fords Shell Ring Northridge	Sailing/Rowing Center Fishing Piers for Fresh & Salt Water More Boat Ramps/Landings
Mini Park		New Orleans Rd Corner Park Town Hall Park Arrow Rd Corner Park	Water fountains Picnic Areas Public Art
Linear Park		Chaplin Linear Park All Pathways	Boardwalks with water view Lighting, street furniture, etc.

Note 1: To be determined after coordinating with neighborhoods who desire neighborhood parks.

Note 2: Many organizations have requested dedicated single purpose fields. It is the Town's desire to create as many multi-purpose fields as possible in order to supply the needs of the various ball teams. Better scheduling and lighting of the existing fields could result in postponing the need for construction of more fields. This needs to be monitored annually.



5. Park Maintenance Levels of Service

Maintenance of parks and recreational facilities within the Town is performed by both the Town and Beaufort County through shared informal agreements which may be formalized as intergovernmental agreements in the future. Beaufort County maintains active recreational facilities such as multi-purpose fields and baseball and softball fields. The Town of Hilton Head Island Facilities Management Division maintains the passive parks and beach parks located on Town properties.

Maintenance tasks are divided into 7 major categories described below and are performed by both the Town of Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County to sustain a high level of service for the residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island. Beaufort County's Public Works Department budgets park maintenance for the entire county and does not break down the maintenance costs for individual parks. Consequently the amount of money the County budgets for maintaining parks specifically on the Island is not known.

The Town's current parks maintenance budget is approximately \$320,400. To take over maintenance of Town and County parks located within the Town it is estimated for the fiscal year 2004-2005 to be \$685,400. This figure does not include the beach patrol franchise agreement the Town has with Shore Beach Services for patrolling and servicing the 13 miles of beaches on the Island. Because there is a high expectation of residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island for excellent recreational facilities and the potential for an increase in park maintenance costs that comes with these expectations the Town should: begin to consider the need for a Town Parks and Recreation Department; investigate ways to work with Beaufort County to have improved maintenance to meet our expecta-

tions; and evaluate ability of Town's Facilities Management Division to assume all maintenance and operation of parks.

Maintenance Tasks

Park Landscape Maintenance

Turf areas are mowed on a regular basis and sidewalks, decks, and parking lots are cleared with leaf blowing machines and edging on an as-needed basis. Pruning of trees and shrubs is performed when necessary to maintain an orderly appearance. Spraying for insect and disease control, weed control (performed by manual, mechanical, or chemical means) and mulching or pine strawing is performed throughout the year.

Pathways/Sidewalks/Trails Maintenance

Pathways are maintained in a safe and neat appearance at all times. This includes edging, and clearing tree limbs and branches, mowing shoulders and any other objects interfering with a clear pathway.

Playground Maintenance

Grass, weeds, and other vegetation is hand-pulled from playground areas as needed. No chemicals are used in playground areas. All maintenance work in playground areas is performed during daylight hours.

Ball Field Maintenance

Turf at athletic fields is maintained by the County. Disease and insect problems are treated immediately upon observation and the irrigation systems are maintained in proper working order at all times.

Park Janitorial Services

Restroom facilities at park locations are opened and cleaned daily with additional cleanings on weekends, holidays, and during the tourist high season between Memorial Day and Labor Day.



Litter Control

All litter and debris is removed prior to mowing or any other landscape services performed at Town parks and recreational facilities. Trash receptacles at park locations are emptied daily.

Street Sweeping

All Town owned parking lots and entry roads into parks and recreational facilities operated by the Town are swept weekly.

6. Recreation Programs

Recreation programs for children, adults and senior citizens in Hilton Head Island are offered through the Island Recreation Association and Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services (PALS). The Island Recreation Association is a non-profit organization which provides and coordinates public recreation programs, activities and special events in the Town. Beaufort County PALS is a division of the county government which provides recreational facilities and activities in Beaufort County.

The Island Recreation Association maintains the Island Recreation Center located on Wilborn Road on the north end of the Island. As a Town facility, it is being reviewed for recapitalization and maintenance by the Town in the future. This facility and several other recreational facilities in the Town are home to many of the programs offered by the Association. Programs offered by the association are grouped into categories which include preschool programs, youth programs, youth athletics, adult programs, adult athletics, aquatics and special events.

Pre-school programs are for children between the ages of 2 and 5, starting ages vary based on the program. Some of the programs offered include discovery club preschool,

mother's morning out, storybook hour, art classes, kitchen/cooking classes and sports of all sorts.

Youth programs are for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Some of the programs offered include kid's night out, girl's night out, after school recreation club, vacation club, summer camp, and birthday parties.

Youth athletics are for children between the ages of 6 and 12, some ages vary based on the activity. Some of the youth athletic programs offered are basketball, roller hockey league, flag football, soccer league, soccer camp, softball, junior golf school, karate, tennis, and baseball.

Adult athletics are offered through the Island Recreation Center and include: dodgeball league, basketball league, soccer leagues, tennis leagues, kickball league, and jazzercise classes.

Aquatics programs are offered to a variety of age groups from babies to master swimmers. Aquatic programs offered at the Island Recreation Center are: group swim lessons, water babies, private swim lessons, lifeguard training, masters swimming, Hilton Head aquatics swim team, open/lap swimming, water fitness classes and recreational swim club.

The Island Recreation Association also offers a variety of special events held during the year at various facilities throughout the island. Some special events include: golf tournaments, a water festival, tennis tournaments, Wingfest, oyster roasts, and the Summer Jams concert series.

The Senior Center (SHARE) is a division of the Island Recreation Association and offers a variety of educational, recreation and social activities to adults over 50 years of age.



These activities are offered at various locations including the senior center (SHARE), the Island Recreation Center, St. Andrew Methodist Church and the Player's Club. The examples listed in the Adult Programs category are just a sample of the activities offered through the senior center. There also are regularly scheduled daily activities at the senior center facility such as bowling, group bicycle rides, table tennis, and bridge games. Numerous seminars and discussion groups are scheduled throughout the year which includes a wellness series, guest author series, gardening series, and financial seminars. Day and extended trips are organized through the senior center and they include trips to places of interests in the region such as Charleston, Beaufort, Kiawah Island, and Savannah and Macon, Georgia.

Beaufort County PALS offers youth and adult athletic programs on the Island. Throughout the year PALS coordinates adult soccer leagues and various youth sports leagues: baseball and softball, soccer, football, cheerleading, and basketball.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry is an organization that exists solely for the benefit of children, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances. It is funded by a variety of sources, but mostly depends on the community including churches, civic organizations, businesses, local foundations, and individuals. They provide such programs as Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; the Arts; and Sports, Fitness and Recreation.

Many of the private gated communities throughout the Town offer a variety of recreational programs for their residents and guests of residents. Examples of these programs include summer day camps, dancing lessons,

fitness classes, social or special interest clubs, and holiday themed parties for adults and children. There are also an assortment of private sports organizations that provide programming for a variety of sports activities such as baseball, soccer, swimming, boating, football, golf, and martial arts.

7. Role of Private Development

The majority of the Town's neighborhoods consist of subdivisions that are master-planned with parks and recreation in mind. Parks are located in a manner to provide safe and convenient access to recreation opportunities. Most commonly, pathways and parks are privately owned and maintained by property owner's associations (POAs). The Town's current policy for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) is that new development provides for community open space and parks to serve the development's residential population. Pathways located in private development, which serve the connectivity needs of residents within the development, are not publicly accessible. The Town's pathways are intended to provide connectivity outside the gates to encourage non-motorized travel.

Although privately owned and maintained, their use by the general public can not be discounted. Many of the parks are utilized as team sports practice fields when a resident parent serves as coach. Often there are non-resident participants who benefit from the private facilities.

It is recommended the Town continue to participate with local recreation organizations to develop recreation programs that will meet the needs of the residents and visitors of the island. These programs include organizations for baseball, football, tennis, soccer, running, sailing, youth theatre, etc.



8. Role of Schools

Given the high cost of land on Hilton Head Island, it is important that schools serve multiple needs of the community. When community groups or organizations wish to utilize Beaufort County School's fields, gymnasiums or other school facilities for recreation activities, each event must be approved and scheduled through the specific school's principal. A continued strong working relationship with the schools is strategic to providing the most efficient delivery systems of leisure services.

9. Public Input

Between 2000 and 2004 recreation organizations and island residents have made various requests to Town staff for recreational facilities in the community. These requests were considered in determining future public recreation needs for the community.

The requests were grouped into categories for review purposes. The categories are new facilities with specific location, new facilities without specific location and, park or facility upgrades. A summary of public input appears in Appendix A. These requests should be considered as the Town designs and constructs future parks. Some of their suggestions have been included in Table 5.

10. Regional Recreation

The Beaufort County Planning Department is currently working to develop a Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan. One of the sections of this plan addresses parks and recreation on a regional level in southern Beaufort County. The Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan is not meant to replace this Recreation Element of the Hilton Head Island Comprehensive Plan. The Regional Plan will have a broad scope of the recreation

needs of the entire area while this Recreation Element is specific to the needs of the people on Hilton Head Island.

The Town of Hilton Head Island is working with the Beaufort County to assist in the development of the Regional Plan. The Town is providing information for the regional plan on the park and recreation needs of the residents of Hilton Head Island.

11. Funding Sources

Town Council attempts to minimize reliance on property tax while expanding alternative revenue sources. Several funding sources are used to construct and maintain the Town's park system.

- ▶ Parks Impact Fees were enacted Countywide to provide funding for emerging park needs. As with Traffic Impact Fees, parkland purchases and parks development have exhausted the accumulated monies in our Park Impact Fee account. Thus, the Town has begun Interfund borrowing that will be repaid with interest as the Town continues to garner park impact fees through build out.

- ▶ New Fiscal Year Taxes are ad valorem property taxes, collected during the next fiscal year.

- ▶ Sunday Liquor Sales Permit Fees are derived from the sale of permits to sell alcohol on Sunday.

- ▶ County Contributions such as their bond issue for CIP projects.

- ▶ Donations;

- ▶ Grants such as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21). TEA-21 and FEMA grants are competed for at the State level but include Federal funds.



NEEDS, GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

► Locals Accommodation Tax (ATAX) grants are derived from a State mandated two-percent tax on short-term rentals, hotels and motel accommodations.

► Beach Fees are derived from an additional two-percent Local Accommodations Tax levied by Town Council. This source provides dedicated funds to beach renourishment and related monitoring, dune refurbishment, maintenance and operations, and new beach parks and access facilities.

► Tax Increment Financing (TIF) are funds derived from increased assessed value above the baseline assessment when the TIF District was established. These funds may be used for public projects within the District.

► Real Estate Transfer Fee which is .25 of 1% on each real estate transaction in the Town. The funds generated by this fee are dedicated to the Land Acquisition Program and its debt service.

► C-funds are derived from State taxes on gasoline which may be obtained via the County Transportation Committee (CTC) for special projects.

► General Obligation (GO) Bonds are issued and secured by the full faith and credit (taxing powers) of the Town. The Town actively pursues the highest achievable rating.

► Revenue Bonds are supported by fees or special assessments, and differ from General Obligation Bonds in that they do not pledge the full faith and credit of the Town. Likewise, they do not count against the Town's debt limit cap of 8% of assessed value. Sufficient rates must be maintained to support the bond debt service requirements.

C. Needs, Goals & Implementation Strategies

Through an analysis of the information provided in this element, needs and goals can be identified to support the Town in achieving the vision for recreational facilities and programs. Implementation strategies are specific, measurable tasks which can be done to achieve the goals. This section gives the needs, goals, and implementation strategies for recreational facilities and programs covered in the previous section.

Recreation Needs

NEED 1: As the population of the island continues to grow, the need for recreational opportunities to serve all segments (e.g. senior citizens and physically challenged) of the population increases.

GOAL 1: Continue to expand the public recreation system by providing adequate facilities to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of the island population (including visitors) while maintaining sensitivity to the specific needs of the island.

GOAL 1A: Participate with local recreation organizations in the development of programs and facilities to meet the needs of the resident and visitor populations of the island.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



Be proactive in consideration of leisure services based on current park and recreation needs assessment.





Work with appropriate agencies to ensure the recreational needs of the island's various age groups, specifically youth and elderly residents are met through ade-





NEEDS, GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES


quate facilities and programs.

 Include within the park system a combination of all park types and strive to achieve the park guidelines as stated in this element by providing the number of future parks needed based on population projections.

 Encourage public participation in the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of recreational facilities and programs.

 Improve and expand existing parks to accommodate additional facility needs.

 Planning for parks should begin as appropriate town-owned properties are identified for such a use. Location of specific facilities within future parks should begin immediately after adoption of this plan.

 Planning for linear parks should begin as appropriate properties are identified for such a use.


Unique Features


NEED 2: As the Town gets closer to build-out, less land is left open and more of our natural resources and unique natural features of the island are at risk of being lost.


GOAL 2: Acquire conservation and park lands as a way to preserve natural and cultural resources for educational, interpretive, and passive recreation uses.

GOAL 2A: Continue working with Beaufort County and the Town of Bluffton to ensure a regional park system on the mainland is developed that will serve the recreational needs of the residents and visitors of Southern Beaufort County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

 Coordinate with various agencies including Beaufort County Rural & Critical Lands Board and property owners to identify and purchase undeveloped property for parks and recreation lands as needed.

 Acquire properties located in areas of need for both passive and active uses, and for access points to waterways.


 Support easy to get to regional parks which complement and supplement the local park system, but do not duplicate or substitute for them.

Neighborhood Parks

NEED 3: While traditional recreation planning suggests neighborhood parks should be located throughout a community, the Town will coordinate with neighborhoods to determine a need for a neighborhood park.

GOAL 3: Provide adequate neighborhood parks where needed and desired.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

 Work directly with residents of neighborhoods to determine a need or desire for a neighborhood park.

Pathways

NEED 4: As recreation and transportation needs grow, demand for additional miles of multi-use pathways will increase.


GOAL 4: Continue improving and adding to the existing interconnected network of multi-use pathways throughout the island enabling residents and visitors to access





NEEDS, GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES


recreational areas, shopping centers, schools and businesses by bicycle, foot, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

 Continually make improvements to the existing pathway system and provide new pathway links.

 Build pathways when improving or building roads and in conjunction with utility projects.

 Educate residents and visitors on the use of bicycles and the rules and responsibilities of bicycle riding.

 Link new parks with the multi-use pathway system.


Maintenance


NEED 5: As the use of parks and recreational facilities increase, the levels of maintenance service must be adjusted.


GOAL 5: Continue working with Beaufort County to provide the high standards of maintenance island residents and visitors expect from this community.

GOAL 5A: Budget for and provide cost effective park maintenance and operations in order to maintain the expected level of service for all Town-owned parks.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

 Determine if the Town's Facilities Management Division should assume all park maintenance.

 Continue to examine the need to create a Parks and Recreation Department to supplement or replace those services provided by Beaufort County.


 Work with the County to ensure high quality maintenance is performed on all recreational facilities.


Funding Sources


NEED 6: With the increasing costs for land acquisition, construction and maintenance, a wide variety of funding sources is necessary.


GOAL 6: Continue to utilize and seek a variety of funding sources in order to attain the required parks at buildout.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

 Apply for a wide variety of Federal and State grants for park construction.

 Continue to seek private donations and co-operative agreements.

 Reevaluate Park Impact Fee Program to determine its adequacy.

 Increase park maintenance funding proportionately to increase in park construction.



APPENDIX A**Public Input from various meetings since 2000**

These suggestions resulted from several public meetings between 2000 and 2004. It has been recommended by the Planning Commission that some suggestions are more practical if done by the private sector. Those suggestions deemed appropriate for Town construction are listed in Table 4.

NEW FACILITIES WITH SPECIFIC LOCATION:

- ▶ *Fish Haul Park:* A Gullah/Historical museum.
- ▶ *Pope Avenue Town property:* A public putting green.
- ▶ *Jenkins Island Town property:* (Due to traffic and ingress/egress concerns, these suggestions would be better located elsewhere).
 - ▶ Soccer fields.
 - ▶ A sailing and rowing center with space for fishing village and camping areas.
- ▶ *Hilton Head Preparatory School:* Coordinate for public access to their new 22,000 sq. ft. gymnasium addition.

NEW FACILITIES WITHOUT SPECIFIC LOCATION:

- ▶ Dedicated lacrosse field. The Town might be unable to construct 'dedicated' fields.
- ▶ Indoor tennis courts. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ Indoor or outdoor dry boat storage. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ Boxing facility. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ Climbing wall/rocks/monkey bars. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ Roller rink. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ Skateboard park with shorter ramps - for beginners.
- ▶ Sand volleyball court.
- ▶ Racquetball courts.
- ▶ Bigger slides/swings at playgrounds for kids between 5-10 years old.
- ▶ The Heritage Library requested assistance from the Town in securing a new location and larger facility. This should probably be provided by the private sector.



APPENDIX A

PARK OR FACILITY UPGRADES:**Chaplin Park:**

- ▶ Additional electrical outlets at the picnic pavilion.
- ▶ Additional picnic tables, grills and benches.
- ▶ A larger covered picnic area.
- ▶ Addition of indoor or outdoor racquetball courts with lights.
- ▶ A community house which will accommodate 150 people with chairs, tables, and a kitchen with stove, sink, cooling unit, and restroom facilities. This should probably be provided by the private sector.
- ▶ 2 additional lighted tennis courts.
- ▶ Office space at the tennis center. Staff recommends that if offices are provided, they should be shared by all sporting organizations.

Cordillo Tennis Courts: restrooms, water fountain, storage room, and office space.

Island Recreation Center:

- ▶ Expand to include fitness center and additional meeting rooms.
- ▶ Upgrade multi-purpose field to improve drainage.

Crossings Park:

- ▶ Additional restrooms at soccer field.
- ▶ Complete Phase II to include pathways, parking, basketball courts, & fishing pier at lagoon across from Bristol Sport Arena.

Barker Field: Upgrade of restrooms and parking.

Old Schoolhouse Park: Add restroom and upgrade field and parking.

Bristol Sport Arena: Covered roofs over hockey/basketball and skate parks.

Jarvis Creek Park:

- ▶ Basketball court.
- ▶ Frisbee (Disc) Golf course.
- ▶ More trails and possibly trees planted to screen the view of the Cross Island Parkway.

****NOTE:** More multi-purpose and single purpose fields have been requested. It is believed that better scheduling and lighting of the use of the existing fields can reduce this need.*

